



**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS**

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**West Nile Virus Outbreak**

There has been a lot of news coverage of the West Nile Virus outbreak this year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "The 1,993 cases reported thus far in 2012 is the highest number of West Nile virus disease cases reported to CDC through the first week in September since West Nile virus was first detected in the United States in 1999. Over 70 percent of the cases have been reported from six states (Texas, South Dakota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Michigan) and almost 45 percent of all cases have been reported from Texas."

Unfortunately there are no commercially available human vaccines for the prevention of West Nile virus. Prevention of arboviral diseases, like West Nile virus, centers on controlling exposure to mosquitoes and avoiding mosquito bites as well as public health measures to reduce the populations of infected mosquitoes. These measures include:

- Reduce time outdoors, especially at dusk, during mosquito seasons
- Wear light weight long sleeves and long pants if you are outdoors
- If outdoors, apply insect repellent exposed skin or clothing that contains the active ingredient, DEET. (Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions)
- Maintain window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of buildings
- Drain standing water in the yard because they are potential mosquito breeding sites. Empty standing water from flower pot bases, pet bowls, clogged rain gutters, swimming pool covers, discarded tires, buckets, barrels, cans, etc.

For more information pertaining to mosquitoes and West Nile virus please click on the link for the CDC website.

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/>